



# WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

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**TO:** Balmurli Natrajan  
Chair, Faculty Senate

**FROM:** Joshua Powers  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

**DATE:** January 13, 2020

**RE:** Seeking Faculty Senate Input on Provost Recommendations on the Planned Academic Department Restructuring

As you are aware, the Deans of the five colleges provided me their recommendations on academic department restructuring by the requested deadline of December 2, 2019. These recommendations are posted to the Academic Affairs website: <https://www.wpunj.edu/provost/academic-reorganization> via the link on top of this webpage. The next planned step is Faculty Senate input on my draft recommendations to President Helldobler. This message to you reflects my recommendations, and I invite input at the January 28, 2020 Faculty Senate meeting. This document is posted to the above website for easy and broad access.

## **Provost Powers' Recommendations on Academic Restructuring**

**College of the Arts and Communication** – No restructuring recommendations were advanced as no departments met the criteria. Hence, I am not recommending any restructuring at this time.

**Cotsakos College of Business** – I am supporting Dean Godar's recommendation that the Department of Professional Sales be joined with the Department of Marketing and Management Sciences to form a new department.

**College of Education** – I am supporting Dean Ginsberg's recommendation that the Department of Secondary and Middle School Education be joined with the Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education to form a new department.

**College of Humanities and Social Sciences** – I am supporting Dean Davis' recommendation that the Departments of Anthropology, Africana-World Studies, and Women's and Gender Studies be joined to form a new department. I am also supporting her recommendation that the Departments of Political Science and Geography and Urban Studies be joined to form a new department. Finally, I am supporting her recommendation that the Department of Languages and Cultures and the Asian Studies Program be joined to form a new department.

**College of Science and Health** – I am supporting Option B of Dean Sharma’s recommendation, namely that the Department of Physics be joined with the Department of Mathematics to form a new department. Option B aligned with the expectations of this exercise.

With regard to other elements such as the name of a new department and peripheral matters noted in some of the recommendation documents, I look forward to working with the Deans on these as part of the implementation process that will follow this exercise once President Helldobler provides his final reorganization decisions later in February. As I have also stated before, I look forward to working with college leadership to ensure that these new departments lay the foundation for a culture of innovation to build distinction, not only through what is offered but by how it is offered. Furthermore, I expect that the talents and creativity of a larger departmental faculty will be utilized in a manner that enables all to feel valued and contributing to the greater good. Finally, I desire to ensure that personnel changes are handled thoughtfully and according to state policy and contractual requirements. I wish to reinforce that no one will be losing their job at the University as a function of this reorganization.

With respect to what I am seeking from the Faculty Senate, I invite input on the specific recommendations above as informed by the Dean’s recommendations. Furthermore, I welcome input on the implementation phase set to deploy after President Helldobler makes his final decisions in February such that all is in place by the start of the summer session, including any needs for physical moves over the summer.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.